

# COST REVIEW BOARD CONSIDERS THE QUESTION OF OUR CONTRACT

By B. F. Fly

At yesterday afternoon's session of the local board of cost review for the Arizona lands of Yuma project it was clearly demonstrated that the land owners of Yuma and Gila valleys had been assured by former "higher ups" in the U. S. R. S. that it would not cost them exceeding \$40 per acre to construct the Yuma irrigation project.

Attorney Molloy laid great stress on that point in his closing argument to the board. He was corroborated by O. P. Bondesson, former secretary of the Water Users Association, and Attorney Ingraham.

These assurances were given in Director Newell's preliminary estimate, and upon that assurance, Secretary Hitchcock set aside the three million dollars for the purpose of paying for the construction.

But—and there's the rub—when the "contract" was signed between the government and the water users, no specific price was named.

When asked by Dr. Mead why they did not insist upon the price being fixed, Attorney Ingraham said that in those days everybody had implicit confidence in the government's promises.

When asked what was done after it became generally known that more than \$3,000,000 had been spent, and still the project was far from complete, Mr. Ingraham said that no one was ever notified when that amount had been exhausted; but that it was the universal idea that the system had been enlarged in order to irrigate the mesa and possibly the lands in Imperial valley.

Dr. Mead and Dr. Fleming listened to Attorneys Molloy and Ingraham and Mr. Bondesson with unabated interest. Gen. Marshall was also an intent listener.

It was doubly clear that the witnesses had made a great impression on the board, but it remains to be seen whether the "contract," as implied by the Newell letter and other letters and documents of a similar character will be enough to outweigh the legal contract, wherein no specific sum is mentioned, but simply holds

the land owners to pay the amount assessed against them by the Secretary of the Interior.

It is certain that the strongest possible showing has been made in favor of the \$40 per acre idea; so strong, in fact, that I was in high hopes that at least a fair and just compromise price can be agreed upon between the land owners and the government.

Another fact very clearly brought out was that the mesa is regarded as a part of the project and must stand its proportionate share of the construction costs. All the witnesses urged that the public lands on the mesa be thrown open as soon as possible not only because the costs of operation and maintenance will be reduced thereby, but because it will bring new people, new money, new energy and be a great advertisement to the project as a whole.

One more point was brought out that will stop croakers from other sections trying to make people believe that Yuma project is not prospering, and that was when Mr. Bondesson testified that land values have more than doubled since the commencement of work on the project. Raw lands were selling for \$25 per acre before the work was begun, whereas, raw lands now sell all the way from \$50 to \$65 or \$75, while the general price of well cultivated lands run from \$100 to \$300 per acre, according to proximity to Yuma, or the nature of the crop planted.

Altogether, the first day's session was most agreeable to everybody. Everything worked like a fine piece of machinery, and the general impression is that the review will be of great benefit to the project.

It is a certainty that nearly half a million dollars, if not more, will be knocked from the book accounts, and it is almost equally as certain that the river front work and the cost of Laguna dam will be properly and fairly adjusted.

Just before the board adjourned, Dr. Fleming received a telegram announcing the death of Expert Accountant Smalley, which was a great shock to all who knew him.

## CALIFORNIA CORPORATIONS GET NO LICENSE TAX REFUND

(Associated Press)

SACRAMENTO, Oct. 14.—The state board of control has denied the application of twenty-five public service corporations of California for refunds in corporation license taxes paid by them.

## BULGARIA DECLARED WAR ON SERBIA THIS MORNING

(Associated Press)

ATHENS, Oct. 14.—Bulgaria officially declared war on Serbia at 8:00 o'clock this morning.

Snyder, the auto man, made a quick trip with passengers to Somerton at noon today.

## CLEANING POLITICS

"Politics can be cleansed only from the inside of the political party," says Rev. Joseph H. O'Dell, D. D., in the Ladies' Home Journal. "Men who exert any influence in elections must play the game three hundred and sixty five days in the year. A hundred circumstances make it impossible for the minister to be a direct fact in the results, but this does not render him a political nonentity. He can understand enough of the working methods to apply the great determinative principles; he can inspire the sluggish citizens of his congregation to a performance of their civic duties; he can fire the men of his church with such a passion for righteousness in public life that they will serve on their party committees and become candidates for office; he can luster registering and voting with a sacramental significance.

"What he cannot do himself by direct action, he can cause a hundred or five hundred of his parishoners to do as an integral part of their Christian lives. There are certain spheres of influence in which a minister is at a discount because of his professional standing. But he is not thereby shut out from a part in the development of modern society.

"Jesus did not legislate by specific acts, regulations and by-laws, but by the proclamation of determinative principles. Those principles are as applicable today as they were sixty generations ago. It is the minister's privilege to show the relevance of those principles to modern life; to bring them to bear upon such problems as local option, factory regulation, child labor, workmen's compensation, capital and labor, trade competition, penology and a hundred kindred themes.

"If he can lay the divine compulsions of such principles upon the men who fall within his pastoral domain, he will have become a social, civic and political power of the first order without jeopardizing his influence by plunging into a game for which he has had no training and to which he can give adequate time without sacrifice and privileges."

## MARSHALL DENIES A REPORTED STATEMENT

PHOENIX, Ariz., Oct. 14.—That President Wilson, credited with saying he did not want Vice President Marshall for a running mate in the 1916 election, did not make the statement, is the belief of Mr. Marshall.

An "exclusive dispatch" published in a coast paper to that effect is looked upon as absurd and ridiculous by the vice president, who said that he was confident that the president did not say any such thing. In the Washington dispatch Mr. Wilson is quoted as saying it is "unlucky to run the same team twice," while the author of the message insinuates that there is a marked coldness between the president and vice president. "The real reason being," according to the report is, "that Mr. Marshall refused to stand hitched on several administration measures, notably the rivers and harbors bill."

## COULD THIS HAPPEN IN YUMA?

(Special to the Yuma Daily Examiner)

PEWAUKEE, Wis., Oct. 14.—Here's the latest fish story. Robert Nichols and E. F. Schmutzler went fishing. Arriving at the favorite spot, they found to their horror they had brought a can of green paint instead of a can of bait. But listen! Nichols is an artist. He painted pictures of a worm on the hooks, and they had a record catch.

## POISON IS MIXED WITH NERVE MEDICINE

(Special to the Yuma Daily Examiner)

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 14.—A demonstrator in a department store mixed a poisonous liquid used for cleaning glasses with a nerve medicine over 200 persons are thought to have been poisoned. The demonstrator, however, was the only one to report to a hospital.

## HOWDY, JOHN! .HOWDY JIM!

(Special to the Yuma Daily Examiner)

SHARONVILLE, O., Oct. 14.—"Howdy, John!" "Howdy, Jim!" Thus John and James Stewart of Kansas and Tennessee respectively, met here after a lapse of forty-seven years. Both believed the other dead and spent several hours together in a room before they found out their relationship.

## MAKES FUNERAL PLANS THIRTY YEARS AGO

(Special to the Yuma Daily Examiner)

NEWCASTLE, IND., Oct. 14.—Moab Turner, 77, is dead. Thirty years ago he suffered his first stroke of paralysis and made his funeral plans. A walnut chest was turned into a coffin and given to the local undertaker to care for. He will be buried in the walnut casket.

## WEATHER FORECAST

(Associated Press)

The weather forecast for Arizona states: "Tonight and Friday, unsettled; probably rain in the northern part of the state."

The Elks will give a ball next Saturday night.